

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05250 101414 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 025356

O 101400 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8634

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MOSCOW 5250

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, UR

SUBJ: RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROACH TO SOVIETS ON LEBANESE
SITUATION

REF : BEIRUT 5288

1. WE BELIEVE SOVIETS ARE IN POSITION TO HELP CALM DOWN SYRIANS IF THEY CHOOSE, AND FEEL APPROACH BY US AT THIS TIME COULD ACCORDINGLY BE EFFECTIVE. WHILE REPORTS OF RECENT SECRET HAFEZ ASAD VISIT TO MOSCOW HAVE NOT BEEN CONFIRMED, SOVIET/ SYRIAN RELATIONSHIP OVER PAST YEAR SUGGESTS REASONABLY CLOSE DIALOGUE EXISTS BETWEEN MOSCOW AND DAMASCUS WHICH WE SHOULD TRY TO EXPLOIT FOR SAKE OF CALMING DOWN SITUATION IN LEBANON. APPROACH TO SOVIETS WOULD BE TIMELY STEP CONSISTENT WITH IMPROVED US/ SOVIET RELATIONS.

2. IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT ADVISABLE, I COULD EITHER INITIATE APPROACH HERE OR UNDERTAKE A FOLLOW- UP ACTION AT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL TO URGE SOVIET INTERCESSION WITH SYRIANS ALONG LINES INDICATED IN REFTEL.
DUBS

SECRET

NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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